

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 876

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 15872

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, FR, MO

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEW OF MOROCCAN SITUATION

REF: PARIS 15580

SUMMARY: GOF IS REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR MOROCCAN REGIME, BUT CONCERNED ABOUT PROBLEMS ARISING FROM MOROCCANIZATION DECISIONS. NEGOTIATIONS ON THESE ISSUES ARE TO CONTINUE AND GOF HOPEFUL THAT GOM WILL BE FLEXIBLE, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO SMALL LANDHOLDERS AND BUSINESSMEN. END SUMMARY.

1. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS DE WARREN GAVE EMBOFF JUNE 7 FURTHER RUNDOWN ON CURRENT FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARDS MOROCCO. IN GENERAL, FRENCH VIEW NOT GREATLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT CONTAINED RABAT'S 2467 THOUGH PERHAPS MARGINALLY MORE PESSIMISTIC. DE WARREN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AT LONG LAST KING HASSAN HAD TAKEN STEPS TO MANAGE SITUATION. RECENT FRENCH CABINET LEVEL VISITORS, HOWEVER, HAVE SENSED
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CONSIDERABLE MALAISE IN MOROCCAN OFFICIAL CIRCLES AND PREOCCUPATION WITH LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN MOROCCO BY VARIOUS FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. FRENCH ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT STEPS WHICH KING HAS TAKEN TO SHORE UP HIS POSITION ARE PRIMARILY IN TERMS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR AT EXPENSE OF FOREIGNERS: EXTENSION OF EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE, MOROCCANIZATION OF INDUSTRIES, NATIONALIZATION OF LANDS, MORE ACTIVE CLAIMS ON SPANISH SAHARA AND MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST. GOM AND, HE ADDED PARENTHETICALLY, GOF ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT SERIOUS DETERIORATION OF MOROCCO'S RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA WHICH COULD BODE ILL FOR FUTURE.

2. FRENCH ARE NOT FULLY CONVINCED THAT THESE MEASURES PLUS STEPS TO STIR UP ECONOMY, INCLUDING EFFORT TO MOBILIZE YOUTH FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, WILL BEAR FRUIT. IN DE WARREN'S VIEW, IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR KING TO TIGHTEN SCREWS ON POLITICAL SYSTEM, IF SIMULTANEOUSLY HE DOES NOT PRESS FORWARD VIGOROUSLY WITH INTERNAL ECONOMIC PROGRAMS AND BASIC REFORMS. THESE HAVE YET TO TAKE PLACE.

3. IN TERMS OF FRANCO- MOROCCAN RELATIONS, AS INDICATED REFTTEL, MOROCCANIZATION REMAINS ISSUE OF THE DAY. NEGOTIATIONS ON SUBJECT ARE TO CONTINUE. FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL IS TO GO TO RABAT IN NEAR FUTURE FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AND FORMIN BENHIMA IS TO COME TO PARIS BEFORE END OF MONTH. FRENCH POSITION CONTAINS THREE BASIC POINTS: A) COMPENSATION MUST BE PAID; B) COMPENSATION MUST BE PROMPT, AND C) THOSE COMPENSATED MUST HAVE RIGHT TO REPATRIATE THEIR FUNDS. GOF, HE SAID, IS PRESSING ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS FOR FAVORABLE COMPENSATION TERMS FOR SMALL LANDHOLDERS AND BUSINESSMEN, AND HOPES THEY WILL BE COMPENSATED IN ADVANCE OF ACTUAL TAKEOVER. GOF ALSO REVIEWING EXISTING LEGISLATION FOR LOANS TO FRENCH CITIZENS REPATRIATED FROM OVERSEAS. RATES OF LOANS WERE DETERMINED MANY YEARS AGO AND NEED TO BE REVISED. IN PERIOD OF NEXT FEW YEARS DE WARREN SAID GOF ANTICIPATED VERY SUBSTANTIAL EMIGRATION OF PERHAPS 30,000 OR MORE FRENCH CITIZENS.

4. IN GENERAL, DE WARREN CONCLUDED, FROM JOBERT'S AND DE LIPKOWSKI'S TALKS IN RABAT FRENCH HAVE IMPRESSION THAT MOROCCANS PREPARED TO BE FAIRLY FLEXIBLE IN WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAKEOVER OF FRENCH PRIVATE INTERESTS. GOF
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WILL BE WORKING HARD TO MAKE SURE THIS REMAINS THE CASE AND THAT THERE IS NO HARDENING OF MOROCCAN POSITION.
IRWIN

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